

OZARK-ST. FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS
LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Amendment # 7
December 1993

Preface

Page iii under 4. FOREST MANAGEMENT DIRECTION, insert after Management Area 8; "Management Area 9 Wild and Scenic Rivers"

Page iv under LIST OF TABLES, insert " Table 4-8a; "Proposed and Probable Activities - Management Area 9".

Chapter 2: Analysis of the Management Situation

Page 2-2 Wild and Scenic Rivers, after the last sentence add . . . "On April 23, 1992 Congress amended the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to include 6 streams on the Ozark National Forest. See Management Areas and Prescriptions Page 4-27

Chapter 3: Plan Response to Issues, Concerns and Opportunities

Page 3-2 How Should National Forest Streams Be Used?, after the last sentence add; "Management Area 9 in Chapter 4 addresses Wild and Scenic River Management Areas."

Chapter 4: Forest Management Direction

Page 4-5 Wild and Scenic Rivers, delete all of this section and insert:
"On April 23, 1992 Congress amended the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 to include 6 streams on the Ozark National Forest. These Streams include: North Sylamore Creek, Buffalo River, Hurricane Creek, Richland Creek, Big Piney Creek and Mulberry River.

Designation of the streams followed a detailed EIS (Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement on Thirteen Rivers in the Ozark National Forest) recommending they be designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational streams. this study recommended streams considered unsuitable for designation be dropped from further study and that other agencies complete studies of streams outside the Forest Boundary or where Federal ownership patterns were insufficient for adequate protection and management. (See Table 4-17)

Following the legislative action designating the streams, the Ozark national Forest began the process of corridor designation as required by the 1964 Act. Amendment #7 of this Plan establishes Wild and Scenic River Management Area 9 and requirements for continued protection and management.

Page 4-21 MANAGEMENT AREAS AND PRESCRIPTIONS, first sentence should be changed to read ". . . are divided into nine management areas which . . ."

Page 4-22 Management Area 1 Wilderness, immediately above Goals add; "6580 acres of the 66,800 Wilderness acres are in Wild and Scenic River corridors. Since Wilderness Management is more restrictive, Wilderness Standards and Guides will continue to dictate management of the corridors and these acres will remain in Management Area 1."

Page 4-25 Management Area 3 Developed Recreation Areas, first line after Description should read; "This 6,940 acre (nearest . . .)"

Page 4-25 immediately above Goals, this sentence should read; "All 6,940 acres in this management area are unavailable, and therefore unsuitable for timber production. 1869 acres of developed recreation areas are included in Management Area 9, Wild and Scenic Rivers and will be managed according to Wild and Scenic River Management Requirements."

Page 4-28 Management Area 4 Pastures, first line after Description should read; "This 3,300-acre (nearest 100 acres) management . . ."

Page 4-32 Management Area 7 special Interest Areas, after Sandstone Hollow - 500 acres, insert the following; "(135 acres are in a Wild and Scenic River corridor)"

Page 4-32 Management Area 7 special Interest Areas, after Waldo Mountain-Wainscott Bottoms - 400 acres, insert the following; "(365 acres are in a Wild and Scenic River Corridor)"

Page 4-32 Management Area 7 special Interest Areas, immediately above Goals, insert the following; "495 acres of Special Interest Areas are in Wild and Scenic River Corridors. These acres are included in Management Area 7 and will continue to be managed according to Management Area 7 Standards and Guides."

Page 4-34 Management Area 8 General Forest, the first line under Description should read; "This 1,017,100 acre management area . . ."

Page 4-34 Management Area 8 General Forest, the second paragraph under Description should read; "Area contains 284,900 acres not suitable and 732,200 acres suitable for timber production."

Page 4-39 immediately above Forest Management Objectives, insert:

Management Area 9
Wild and Scenic River
Management Area

The Wild and Scenic River Corridors included in this management area are established to comply with Section 3 (b) of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 as amended.

This 18,000 acre area (area to nearest 100 acres) includes designated Wild and Scenic River Corridors as follows:

- North Sylamore Creek ... 3,217 acres on the Sylamore R.D. (10 acres of private land not included in total)
- Buffalo River, Richland Creek and Hurricane Creek... 5,595 Acres on the Buffalo R.D. (80 acres of private land not included in total)
- Big Piney Creek, 5,844 Acres on the Buffalo and Bayou R.D.'s (320 acres of private land not included in total)
- Mulberry River, 3,294 acres on the Pleasant Hill and Boston Mountain R.D.'s (614 acres of private land not included in total)

All 18,000 acres in this Management Area are unavailable and, therefore, unsuited for timber fiber production. Timber may be harvested primarily for recreational and aesthetic purposes. Management Area Requirements lists other purposes for timber harvesting.

6,580 acres of Wilderness on the Buffalo R.D. lay within the designated corridor. This acreage is not included in Management Area 9 since it will continue to be managed as Wilderness according to Management Area 1 Standards and Guides. Wilderness regulations are more restrictive than W&S River Management Requirements. This acreage is not included in the total Management Area 9 acres.

This area includes 1886 acres formerly classified as Management Area 3, Developed Recreation. These acres are included and will be managed according to Management Area 9 Requirements.

This area includes 174 acres of developed pasture which are compatible with Wild and Scenic River Management. Management of these pastures will be according to Management Area 9 Requirements.

Some 495 acres of Special Interest Area, Management Area 7 (Wainscott Bottoms and Sandstone Hollow), occur inside the designated River Corridors. Since Management Area 7 Standards and Guides are more restrictive, the area will continue to be managed according to Management Area 7 Standards and Guides. This acreage is not included in the total Management Area 9 acres.

The area includes 12,006 acres and 2,806 acres of land classified as suitable and unsuitable, respectively, for timber management. This 14,813 acres has been removed from Management Area 8 and will be managed according to Management Area 9 Requirements.

Management Area 9 also includes 1,077 acres of newly acquired land which was formerly unclassified and not assigned to a Management Area. This acreage will be managed according to Management Area 9 Requirements.

Stream Classifications

The Wild and Scenic River Study Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement on Thirteen Rivers in the Ozark National Forest lists the following classification for each stream:

Richland Creek

Segment A. The section from the headwaters to the wilderness boundary (7.8 miles) is classified scenic due to the accessibility by roads reaching the creek.

Segment B. The section through the wilderness (5.3 miles) is classified wild. Access is only by non-mechanized means and routes used are old roads that were closed in 1986 or were little used.

Segment C. The section from the junction of Falling Water Creek downstream 3.4 miles to the northern boundary of Section 32, Township 14N, Range 18W is classified scenic due to roads reaching the creek; and longer stretches of inconspicuous roads in the river corridor. The remaining 6.1 miles to the

Forest Boundary were dropped from consideration because of the high proportion of private land (79%) in the corridor.

Big Piney Creek

Segment A. From the headwaters to the center of Sec 24 T11N R20W below Indian Creek, 34.1 miles, is classified scenic. It is accessible in places by roads reaching the stream including long stretches of inconspicuous roads. This segment also includes numerous private tracts with developed pastures.

Segment B. From the lower terminus of Segment A downstream 3.9 miles to the most northerly private tract within the Wainscott Bottoms Special Interest Area in Sec 32 T11N R20W is classified scenic. In Amendment 2 of the Forest Land Management Plan it was originally classified wild. However, upon further evaluation, it was reclassified due to access from a road leading to private land.

Segment C. From Wainscott Bottoms downstream to the Forest Boundary (7.2 miles) is classified scenic. It is accessible in places by roads, includes short stretches of conspicuous roads, evidence of timber harvest and a swimming beach, picnic area, campground and canoe launch site.

Buffalo River

Segment A. That section of the river from its head to the Upper Buffalo Wilderness on National Forest System land (6.4 miles) is classified scenic. This is due to the accessibility by roads reaching and crossing the river; and longer stretches of inconspicuous roads in the river corridor.

Segment B. The section of the river through the Upper Buffalo Wilderness (N.F.) (9.4 miles) is classified wild. Access is only by non-mechanized means and routes used are primarily roads abandoned and closed in 1976.

Mulberry River

Segment A. From the head to Redding Campground (30.8 miles) is classified recreational. Roads reach or cross the river in several locations. FDR 1003/ST 215 parallels the river with short stretches of conspicuous road. There is some evidence of past and on-going agricultural and timber harvesting activities in the river corridor, but the shorelines and the immediate areas appear largely undeveloped. There are several small communities in the corridor.

Segment B. From Redding Campground to Big Eddy Creek (5.8 miles) is classified as recreational. There are long stretches of conspicuous road, numerous access points, a gravel pit, and numerous structures.

Segment C. The segment from Big Eddy Creek to the Forest boundary (19.4 miles) is classified scenic due to accessibility in places by roads; and including long stretches of inconspicuous roads within the river corridor.

North Sylamore Creek

Segment A. From the head of Stewart Fork to Barkshed Recreation Area (5.9 miles) is classified wild. It is generally inaccessible, has little evidence of any timber harvest and appears essentially primitive.

Segment B. From Barkshed to the mouth (14.5 miles) is designated scenic due to roads reaching crossing the creek, and short stretches of conspicuous roads. Blanchard Springs Caverns is outside the 1/4 mile corridor under consideration; but campgrounds at Gunner Pool and North Sylamore are within the corridor.

Hurricane Creek

Segment A. From the headwaters to the western boundary of the private land within Hurricane Creek Wilderness (11.2 miles) is classified scenic. This is due to roads reaching and crossing the river, and long stretches of inconspicuous roads within the river corridor.

Segment B. From the western boundary of the private land within Hurricane Creek Wilderness to the northern boundary of the private land in Section 9, Township 12N, Range 21W (2.4 miles) is classified wild. Access is only by non-mechanized means along old roads closed in 1986.

Segment C. From the northern boundary of the private land in Section 9, Township 12N, Range 21W to its confluence with Big Piney Creek (1.9 miles) is classified scenic. This is due to roads reaching and crossing the rivers, and short stretches of inconspicuous roads within the river corridor.

Goals

Maintain the free flowing characteristics and protect the outstandingly remarkable values for which the rivers were included in the system.

Direction

Manage the river corridors to protect and enhance values for which the rivers were selected for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Management Prescriptions, Activities, and Requirements

The standards and Guides in Table 4-18 will be followed to protect and enhance river values.

--- Fire Protection strategies will include confine, contain and control in compliance with the current Fire Management Action Plan.

--- Fire will be prescribed to accomplish management objectives based on river classifications. Prescribed fire will be used in accordance with the Management Action Plan and approved burning plans.

Table 4-17

SUMMARY OF STUDY RESPONSIBILITY, POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION FOR CLASSIFIED STREAMS, AND UNCLASSIFIED MILEAGE OUTSIDE FOREST BOUNDARY

RIVER/STREAM	RESPONSIBILITY FOR STUDY		MILES OF STREAM WITHIN FOREST B'DRY			MILES OUTSIDE FOREST B'DRY UNCLASSIFIED
	FOREST SERVICE	OTHER AGENCY	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL	
Buffalo River	^{4/} x	^{1/} x	9.4	6.4	---	134.2
Little Buffalo East Fork,		^{5/} x	---	---	---	21.2
Little Buffalo	x		4.3	2.4	---	2.0
Illinois Bayou	x	^{1/} x	---	---	6.8	19.8
Illinois Bayou North Fork	x		---	22.6	---	.0
Illinois Bayou East Fork	x		8.7 ^{2/}	6.2	---	.0
Illinois Bayou Middle Fork	x		6.5 ^{3/}	12.0	2.0	.0
Kings River		^{5/} x	---	---	---	90.0
Mulberry River	x	^{1/} x	---	50.2	5.8	6.3
Big Piney Creek	x	^{1/} x	3.9	41.3	---	13.4
Richland Creek	x	^{1/} x	5.3	17.4	---	6.9
Falling Water Creek	x		---	7.1	3.5	.0
North Sylamore Creek	x		5.9	14.5	---	.0
Cole Fork Branch	x		5.5	---	---	.0
War Eagle Creek		^{5/} x	---	---	---	65.0
Upper White River		^{6/} x	---	---	10.7 (0.9)	37.3
Lee Creek		^{6/} x	---	14.4 (5.2)	4.5 (1.8)	30.1
L'Anguille River		x	---	---	0.7	70.3

^{1/} Arkansas Natural and Scenic Rivers Commisision is the logical agency to study that segment outside the Forest Boundary

^{2/} Includes 0.4 miles outside Forest Boundary

^{3/} Includes 1.9 miles outside Forest Boundary

^{4/} Forest Service will only study that part of the River in the National Forest Boundary.

^{5/} Entire river is outside national Forest Boundary. Arkansas Natural and Scenic Rivers Commission is the logical agency to study this river.

^{6/} Miles in () are adjacent to National Forest land, the remainder joins private lands. Arkansas Natural and Scenic Rivers Commission is the logical agency to study this stream.

RESOURCE OR
ACTIVITY

WILD

SCENIC

RECREATIONAL

TIMBER

Activities

Lands within the established boundary are unavailable and therefore unsuitable for timber management. Cutting individual trees or small tree groups is permitted to enhance the primitive recreation experience, provide a safe experience or protect the environment, unless precluded by other land classification.

Timber management activities are subordinate to scenic and recreational values. Lands within the corridor will not be managed for sustained yield timber production. Tree cutting to improve residual stand vigor and or appearance, or to salvage and replace decadent, diseased, insect infested, fire damaged, wind or ice thrown stands with younger, healthier trees is permitted.

A wide range of silvicultural practices is available for these purposes provided that no substantial adverse effect on the river and its immediate environment occurs.

Use the following timber cutting methods to achieve the appropriate river corridor objective--

--Intermediate thinnings in both pine and hardwood stands.

--Group selection harvest cuttings in hardwood stands.

--Small shelterwood cuttings in hardwood stands (10 acre maximum size.)

--Small seedtree cuttings in pine stands (20 acre maximum size.)

Minimize tree cutting effects on streams by--

--Prohibiting mechanized skidders within vegetative filter strips defined under Water, Soil and Air, p 4-14.

--Using animals or cable winching to remove logs from this zone.

--Establishing streamside slash disposal zones where all tops are removed for an appropriate distance, and then lopped to be within two feet of the ground for an additional distance sufficient to make them unnoticeable when viewed from the stream.

SAME AS SCENIC

RESOURCE OR ACTIVITY	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
TIMBER (continued) Activities		Minimize cultural treatment effects on streams by-- --Using hand cutting tools and appropriate herbicide application only. --Felling all residual stems not required for wildlife habitat purposes. --Using prescribed burning only where it appropriately maintains or improves scenic or recreational value.	SAME AS SCENIC (continued)
Visual Quality Objectives	Timber activities outside the boundary but within the stream user's view will follow the Visual Quality Objective guidelines for the area being treated.	SAME AS WILD	SAME AS WILD
FLOOD CONTROL, HYDROELECTRIC POWER & WATER SUPPLY	Prohibit all new water supply dams, flood control dams, hydroelectric power facilities, levees or other major diversions in the channel or river corridor.	SAME AS WILD	SAME AS WILD
SOIL & WATER IMPROVEMENTS	Soil and Water Improvements-- Limit stream channel & bank improvements to protection of life, property and outstandingly remarkable values. Use native materials (grass, shrubs, trees, rock, etc.) for any soil and water rehabilitation work. The objective is to make the site blend with the surrounding area.	SAME AS WILD Materials, however, may be removed. A rock crusher may be set up temporarily to facilitate material removal.	SAME AS SCENIC

RESOURCE OR ACTIVITY	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
MINING	Prohibit new mineral leasing and development within the corridor. Allow existing mineral activity to continue subject to Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior regulations. Conduct existing mineral activity to minimize surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment. Permit reasonable access.	Prohibit common variety minerals and mining claim operations within the designated river corridor. Outside the corridor, allow surface occupancy for mineral exploration and/or mining that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment. Allow existing mineral operations to continue subject to Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior regulations prescribed to protect rivers in the National system.	SAME AS SCENIC
ROAD CONSTRUCTION	Permit no roads or other provisions for overland motorized travel within the river corridor.	Maintain or reconstruct existing roads serving private land and those authorized for National Forest Management. Manage existing National Forest roads and proposed new construction to protect and enhance the river corridor.	See Roads p. 4-19. Parallel roads or railroads, bridges and access points are compatible with this classification
AGRICULTURE (FORAGE)	Issue no new grazing permits. Maintain existing improved pastures, but do not establish new ones.	SAME AS WILD	Maintain existing improved pastures. Expand existing ones or create new pastures where they don't conflict with the purpose of recreational designation.
RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Construct trails to the river only at widely spaced key access points. Simple comfort convenience facilities are allowed in the river area. Locate developed areas such as parking lots and large campgrounds outside the river area. The Visual Quality Objective (VQO) is preservation.	Moderate size campgrounds, public information centers, and administrative headquarters are allowed if such structures are screened from the river. Trails are allowed for user convenience. The Visual Quality Objective (VQO) is retention.	Campgrounds, trails, picnic areas and other related facilities are maintained and/or established in close proximity to the river. The Visual Quality Objective (VQO) is retention.

RESOURCE OR ACTIVITY	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
STRUCTURES	New structures are not allowed except in rare instance to achieve management objectives.	SAME AS WILD	Small communities as well as dispersed or cluster residential developments are allowed. New structures are allowed for both habitation and for intensive recreation use.
UTILITIES	Discourage new transmission lines, gas lines, water lines, etc. Where no reasonable alternative exists, restrict additional or new facilities to existing rights-of-way. Where new rights-of-way are indicated, evaluate the scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife values in the site selection.	SAME AS WILD	SAME AS WILD
MOTORIZED TRAVEL	Prohibit internal combustion engines used for powering vehicles or water craft.	Motorized travel on land or water is permitted, but is generally not compatible with this classification.	Motorized travel on land or water is either permitted, prohibited or restricted. Controls are usually similar to surrounding lands and waters.
WILDLIFE AND FISH	Conduct no wildlife or fish habitat improvements; instead allow wildlife species to reach populations associated with a "natural environment." Handle special requirements for threatened, endangered and sensitive species on a case by case basis according to established guidelines.	Conduct no new wildlife or fish habitat improvements. Maintain existing wildlife and fish habitat improvements that do not conflict with the objectives for Scenic classification.	Provide habitat attracting wildlife and fisheries compatible with human activity. See general Forest-wide goals F.P. 4-6 through 4-7. For threatened, endangered or sensitive species direction, see F.P. 4-7 and 4-8.